

DOCKET SECTION

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R97-1/54

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268

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Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R97-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING REVISING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

(November 4, 1997)

Commission Order No. 1201, issued November 4, 1997, allowed the Postal Service to sponsor as a part of its direct case, materials initially filed as library references. In the United States Postal Service Response to Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R97-1/42, filed October 14, 1997, the Service identified 13 witnesses as sponsors for the 49 items to be received in evidence.

The Commission directed that an additional opportunity for discovery concerning these items, and the individual witnesses sponsoring them, was to be provided. These references have already been available for discovery and the Commission directed that the revised schedule attempt to preserve the possibility that a recommended decision might still be issued within 10 months.

I will allow written discovery until November 14, 1997.¹ Hearings to receive the Postal Service supplemental testimony and to allow cross-examination concerning these 49 items will take place December 1-4, 1997. Other dates will be adjusted accordingly.

¹ Order No. 1200, issued October 27, 1997, specifically advised participants that discovery on these materials was available.

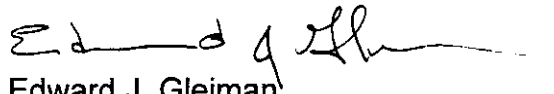
As a result of these steps, the date for filing the case-in-chief of each participant, including rebuttal to the Postal Service, is delayed six weeks. However, this schedule provides slightly shorter periods for oral cross-examination of intervenor and rebuttal witnesses. It also indicates that oral argument will be held only if requested.

RULING

1. The procedural schedule for the remainder of this case is revised as shown in Attachment A.

2. The Postal Service will provide on or before November 12, 1997, a statement of the availability of the witnesses sponsoring additional direct evidence to testify during the period December 1-4, 1997.

3. Participant requests that Postal Service witnesses be scheduled to appear on a specific day shall file such requests on or before November 19, 1997.


Edward J. Gleiman
Presiding Officer

REVISED HEARING SCHEDULE
POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES
Docket No. R97-1

November 14, 1997	Completion of discovery on the Postal Service's supplemental direct evidence
November 19, 1997	Requests for oral cross-examination on supplemental direct testimony
December 1-4, 1997	Hearings for cross-examination of the Postal Service's supplemental direct evidence
December 30, 1997	Filing of the case-in-chief of each participant, including rebuttal to the Postal Service
January 28, 1998	Identify expected amount of oral cross-examination. Report on the availability of witnesses
January 28, 1998	Completion of discovery directed to intervenors and the OCA
January 21, 1998	Trial briefs of intervenors and the OCA
February 17-27, 1998	Evidentiary hearings on the cases-in-chief of intervenors and the OCA
February 17, 1998	Completion of discovery directed to the Service
March 9, 1998	Filing of evidence in rebuttal to the cases-in-chief of participants other than the Postal Service (no discovery permitted on this rebuttal evidence; only oral cross-examination)
March 16-20, 1998	Hearings on rebuttal to participants' direct evidence
April 1, 1998	Filing of initial briefs
April 10, 1998	Filing of reply briefs
Only if requested	Oral argument